Belin Thinks Ike, JFK Knew of Plots

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A key figure in the investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency said yesterday he believes that Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy were aware of assassination plots on foreign leaders, especially Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

David W. Belin, former executive director of the Rockefeller commission, said he "assumed" both Presidents were aware of the plots. Belin said he based this assumption in part on the fact that Allen W. Dulles, brother of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, was CIA director during the Eisenhower years, and that Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy allegedly knew of plots against Castro during his brother's administration.

"The Presidents could read between the lines," Belin said on "Face the Nation" (CBS, WTOP), because they were "not naive."

He added that the 347-page report issued Thursday by the Senate intelligence committee appeared to be "a thorough job," but he felt it went "easy" on past presidents and their knowledge of assassination plots.

Belin, who also served as a senior member of the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy, called for a congressional investigation into that report.

He said he thought that a probe would bear out the commission findings that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed President Kennedy.